Import of Liquified natural gas

2889. SHRI V. NARAYANASWA-MY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 661 gi$_v$en in the Rajya Sabha on t'ne 27th February, 1989 and state;

(a) whether the Planning Commis sion opposed the move for import of liquified natural gas to replace coal with natural gas as a source for gene rating power; and

[b) if so, what alternate steps Government are taking to substitute coal to get over e^n«'gy crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OP THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The import of LNG requires the setting up of facilities to handle the LNG. No pro-posal for the construction of such facilities has so far been received. The import of LNG will depend upon its fechno-economic feasibility. This can be used in addition to indigenous gag in various sectors, including tlie power sector, in such a manner as to optimise th$_e$ total use of gas.

Permission to M/s Peerless Drive Limited Calcutta for off-shore driH-ing near Bombay High

2890. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAK-RAVARTY; Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M|s Peerless Drive Limited, Calcutta ha? been permitted to take up $_a$ project in collaboration with Government of a foreign country relating to offshore drilling near Bombay High; and

(b) if so. what are the details thereof and th$_e$ circumstances in which permission has £>^{een} accorded by Government *to* a company who-"

basic function is small scale financial investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SlHRI BRAHM DUTT); (a) and (b) A foreign collaboration has been approved between M[s Peerless Drive Private Ltd., Calcutta and M[s Rolv Berg Drive A[s, Norway for Off-sKore and sub-sea Maintenance Work in the Petroleum Sector. Mjs Rolv Berg Drive A|s, Norway have worked with ONGC under contract in this field. This collaboration ha$_s$ been approved after taking into consideration all the relevant factors.

Declining cost of the imported crude oil

2891. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA; Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) by what percentage the prices of crude oil in the world market came down during the last three years till date, year-wise;

(b) by what percentage the^v"share of imported crude oil was reduced due to increased domestic production during 1986, 1987 and 1988 and by what percentage the oil import bill was reduced as a consequence thereof; and

(c) whether with the increasing domestic production of oil and with the declining cost of the importe3 crude oil, Government propose to reduc$_e$ the prices of petrol, diesel and Kerosene oil, if not, what ar$_e$ the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The prices of crude oil *in* the international market were very volatile during the last three years. Moreover, there are various grades of crude having different prices. However, yearly average of spot prices of